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SUBJECT: Zagreb Daily Report - December 04, 2009

11. (U) Prime Minister Reacts to Brammertz Report, Pledges to Continue Investigation: Responding to ICTY Prosecutor Brammertz's report to the UN Security Council on December 3, in which he welcomed Kosor's initiative to set up a special task force to find missing documents, Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor told reporters that she was glad to see that Brammertz has recognized Croatia's latest efforts to locate the missing documents. "Our task force is continuing its work," she said. "Getting at the truth about the documents is primarily in Croatia's interest....It is in our interest to find out if they existed and if so, where they are now. If they disappeared, [we want to know] how that happened and who was the last person to hold them."

12. (U) Croatian FM Emphasizes GoC Support for Afghanistan Initiative: In Brussels for the NATO Ministerial, Croatian Foreign Minister Gordan Jandrokovic echoed comments a day earlier by PM Kosor that the GoC strongly supports President Obama's new policy on Afghanistan. Without mentioning specific numbers, he added that, "We are looking for a way to reinforce the Croatian component, primarily its role of assisting in the training of the Afghan security forces and police for taking over their duties and assuming responsibility for the situation in the country."

13. (U) Government Sets Date for New Shipyards Tender: The Cabinet on December 3 announced its decision to publish the new round of tenders for Croatian shipyards on January 6. No terms for the new tenders have been released, except that the price will once again be a symbolic one kuna. The Government will continue to consult closely with the EU on the terms for the tender to ensure it meets the EU's criteria for opening of accession negotiations on the competition policy chapter. The previous tender offer in October 2009 failed to attract any bidders.

14. (U) President Mesic Makes Farewell Visit to Macedonia: On December 3, Mesic paid his fifth and final official visit to Macedonia as Croatian President. Speaking of the name dispute, Mesic said that the issue could be solved without calling into question the Macedonian identity and without Greece feeling threatened. "That would open the way for Macedonia to Euro-Atlantic integration, which Croatia supports and is ready to assist Macedonia and all other countries in the region on that road." Mesic said Greece should separate this bilateral issue with Skopje from Macedonia's EU and NATO membership negotiations so that Macedonia could join the two organisations. He drew a parallel with a Croatian-Slovenian border dispute and the agreement by the governments in Zagreb and Ljubljana to refer the case to international arbitration.

15. (U) EU GAERC to Consider Beginning Drafting of Croatia Accession Treaty, Budget Amounts: The Swedish EU presidency has established a working group to draw up Croatia's accession treaty, now that Croatia has closed 15 negotiating chapters. The EU's Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) in Brussels will review the proposal today and forward it to Foreign Ministers for Monday's General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting. Ministers are also expected to adopt a financial package for 2012 and 2013 that would make Croatia a net beneficiary of the EU budget to the tune of EUR 2.2 billion (USD 3.3 billion).

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